

SYPHILIS

Syphilis is a contagious sexually transmitted disease caused by the spirochete *Treponema pallidum*. The disease, which may be acute or chronic, is characterized clinically by a primary lesion (chancre), a secondary eruption involving skin and mucous membranes, long periods of latency, and late lesions of skin, bone, viscera, the central nervous system, and the cardiovascular system. Fetal infection occurs with high frequency in untreated early infections of pregnant women. Transmission occurs by direct contact with infectious exudates during sexual contact. Transmission may occur through blood transfusion if the donor is in the early stages of the disease. Fetal infection occurs through placental transfer or at delivery.

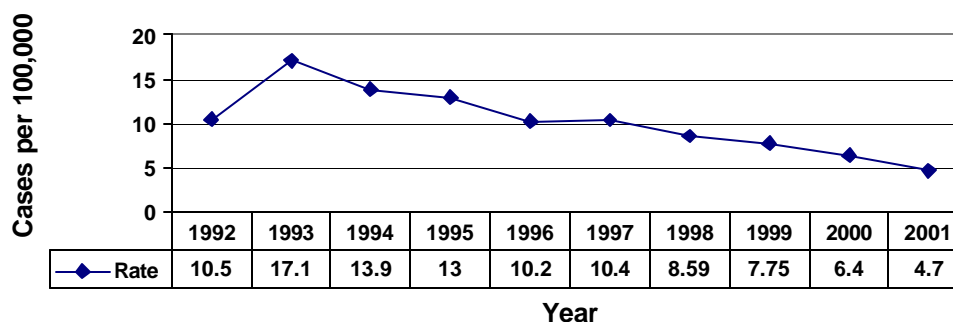
Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

?? Laboratory confirmation of *T.pallidum* by darkfield microscopy, by reactive serology, or by clinical manifestations of acquired infection.

Epidemiology

Kentucky 2001	Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rate (2000) per 100,000
Cases 191	4.7	11.58
Cases by Gender		Cases by Race
Female 89	4.3	African/American 43.9
Male 102	5.2	Hispanics 28.4
		White 1.1

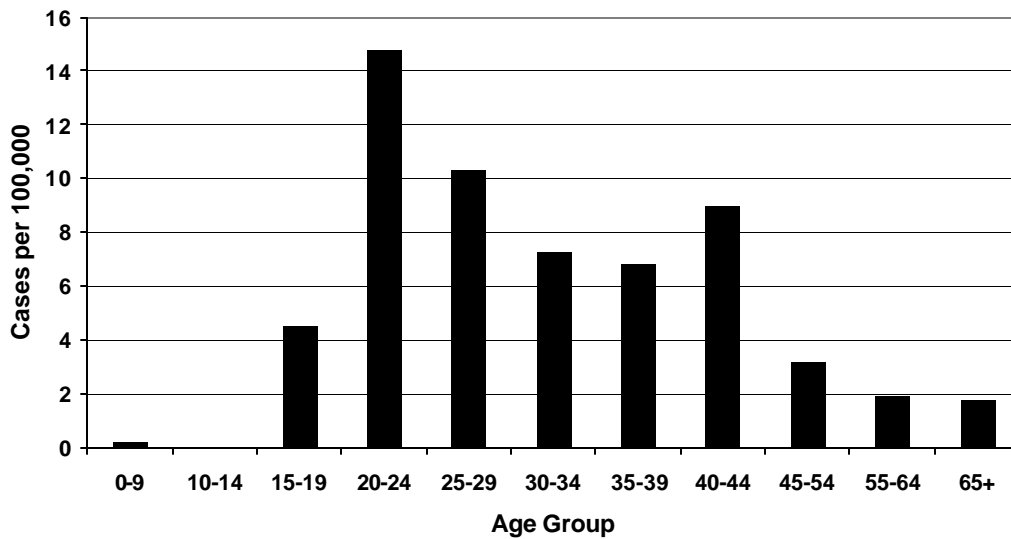
**Syphilis Incidence, Kentucky
1992-2001**



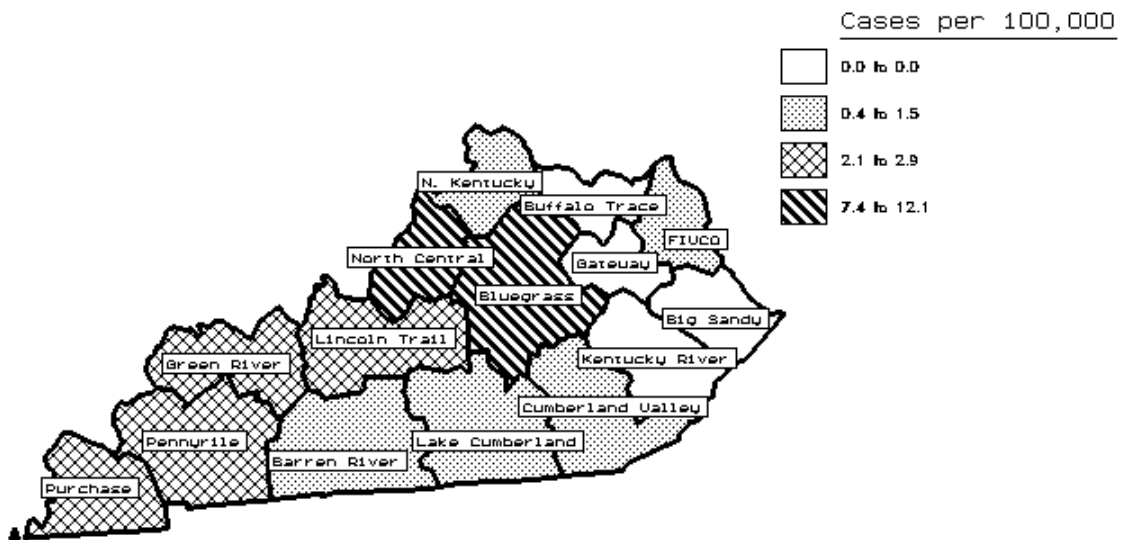
Syphilis is defined by distinct stages. Primary, secondary, and early latent syphilis are considered early syphilis, while late latent and late syphilis are defined as syphilis of greater than one year's duration. Congenital syphilis is acquired in utero.

Cases	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Primary	57	65	55	44	41	34	36	18
Secondary	150	120	99	91	65	67	49	30
Early Latent	179	166	126	122	101	81	62	38
Total Early	386	351	280	257	207	182	147	86
Late Latent/late	134	141	113	141	127	120	103	104
Congenital	13	8	2	6	4	3	3	1
Total Cases	533	500	395	404	338	305	253	191

**Syphilis, Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky
2001**



Syphilis by District, Kentucky Annual Incidence 2001



The North Central District reported the highest rate of 12.1 cases per 100,000 and the Bluegrass District followed with 7.4 cases per 100,000.

Jefferson County, in the North Central District, has the largest urban population in the state. In 2001, Jefferson County reported 14.4 cases of Syphilis per 100,000, a 35% decrease in rate from the previous year.

Fayette County, the second largest urban area in the state, is in the Bluegrass District. Fayette County reported 17.2 cases of Syphilis per 100,000, a 23% decrease in rate from the previous year.